

the worm. Within 24 hours the iodine would kill the worm thereby loosening its grip on the muscles of the patient. Later it can be wound on a stick slowly and extracted from the patient.

My father the late Shri T.H. Tehsin's diary shows that during the winter of, 1948 he had treated 900 patients suffering from Guinea Worm at Dholi Ghati during his stay of 2 months. One of the patient's had 80 Guinea Worms in his body. One even protruded from his tongue. He expired within a fortnight. This proves the gravity of the suffering of the people from this disease in those days.

While looking through the diaries I came across an interesting note. On 6th February 1952 my father shot a leopard in Kachot, a place near Dholi Ghati, in a beat. The animal was very lean. While skinning, he found some yellowish fluid oozing out from a small wound, just above the right eye of the animal. He cut the flesh near the wound and extracted a thin, long, white worm, which he noted was a Guinea Worm. Leopards too apparently suffered from Guinea Worm infection.

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RAZA H. TEHSIN

38, Panchwati, Udaipur-313001.

### 3. SOME NOTES ON HIMALAYAN PALM CIVET, *PAGUMA LARVATA* (HAMILTON-SMITH) (CARNIVORA: VIVERRIDAE)

The Himalayan Palm Civet *Paguma larvata* is a tree civet found in the outer and greater Himalaya. Between 1989 and 1992 three dead specimens of the species were found by me in the university campus at Nauni and around Solan (30° 52' North latitude and 77° 11' East longitude) in Himachal Pradesh, at an altitude of 1300 m and 1500 m respectively. The forests around Solan are represented by subtropical pine forests. (Champion and Seth 1968). The dominant tree species is Chir Pine (*Pinus roxburghii*) followed by Ban Oak (*Quercus incana*) at higher altitudes. Shrubs are represented by *Rosa* sp., *Viburnum* sp. and *Debregeasia* sp. Two of the dead civets bore bullet marks on their body. The third one appeared to be a case of natural death. The present communication is based on the reports dealing with these dead specimens, interrogation reports of farmers in the study area and on observations made on a captive specimen.

According to Roberts (1977), this species is largely frugivorous and there are many instances of their raiding apricot, pear and apple trees when the fruit is ripening. A specimen of this species which was shot by a farmer at midnight in May 1989 near Solan was recovered by me.

The animal had been visiting a Loquat tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*) near the farmer's house for

a week doing a lot of damage to ripening fruits. The faeces of the animal with Loquat seeds were also recovered by me close to the Loquat tree. Subsequently I visited several orchards mostly of stone fruits like peach (*Prunus persica*), plum (*Prunus domestica*), apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*) and vegetable fields around Solan and in the campus of Dr Y.S. Parmar University at Nauni. Almost all the farmers when questioned about this civet said that the animal is a serious pest of stone fruits like peach, plum, apricot and vegetables like peas and tomato. The farmers admitted that they do not hesitate to kill it. The civet is locally called 'Ooj' since it damages their orchards and vegetable crops. Their views were confirmed by the analysis of gut contents of another specimen which was shot and killed by someone near the university campus in May 1991. The analysis revealed that the animal had consumed green peas and apricots which are grown in plenty in the university campus and its surrounding areas. In December 1992, civets are reported to have dug up the seeds of apricot and peach stored in a pit for stratification in the university campus at Nauni. The endocarp of the seeds were removed by the animals before consuming the kernels.

Another civet was found dead by me near the Boy's Hostel of the University in 1992. The animal

was also seen by the inmates of the hostel at noon a few days prior to its death. This confirms the findings of Roberts (1977) that the species is not exclusively nocturnal. The dead specimen was infested with ticks identified as *Boophilus microplus*.

A live specimen of this species is kept in captivity at Jawahar Park in Solan. The specimen would readily eat fruits like plum, pear, apple, peach, apricot, etc. It also relishes bananas eating the endocarp and mesocarp while the ectocarp is rejected. The animal likes tomatoes also but potatoes, pods of beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and chilli fruits (*Capsicum annum*) were rejected. Only one pod of peas (*Pisum sativum*) was accepted out of three offered. Its routine diet includes bread, milk and bananas. The animal would approach the catables thrown into the cage sniffing alone the ground. During the process the vibrissae are always kept backwards. The animal is active mostly during morning and evening hours and accepted food during this period only. During the day time, the animal

was always found sleeping and did not wake up even when disturbed.

The flesh of the shot animals, as told by the villagers, is not thrown but always consumed by the villagers. But there were no reports suggesting that the animal is killed for its flesh only.

It can be concluded from the above account that Himalayan Palm Civet *Paguma larvata* (Hamilton-Smith) damages fruits and vegetables in the mid-hills of Himachal Pradesh.

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M. L. NARANG

*Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture  
and Forestry, Nauni,  
Solan-173 230 (Himachal Pradesh).*

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#### 4. OCCURRENCE OF THE WOLF (*CANIS LUPUS LINNAEUS*) IN REWA DISTRICT (M.P.)

The present distributional status of the species includes six civil districts of the Madhya Pradesh State (S.P. Shahi, *JBNHS*, 79: 493-503, accompanying map showed known wolf habitats).

On 23 March 1993 while travelling from my H.Q. at Sidhi to Rewa, a solitary Wolf was sighted in Chhuhiyaghat section on Govindgarh side, around 1700 hr., crossing the road in front of our slow moving vehicle. This location was amidst hilly scrub forest. Incidentally, this degraded area is a part of the same forest, where the

Ex-Ruler of Rewa State, captured a white tiger Cub.

Earlier in the year 1978, a wolf was seen in the scrub bush forest between Kanker and Keshkal in the Bastar Dist. of Madhya Pradesh.

These locations are additions to the known distribution of the species.

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A.M.K. BHAROS  
*NC-6, MPEB Colony,  
Raipur Road,  
Bilaspur-495 223.*